

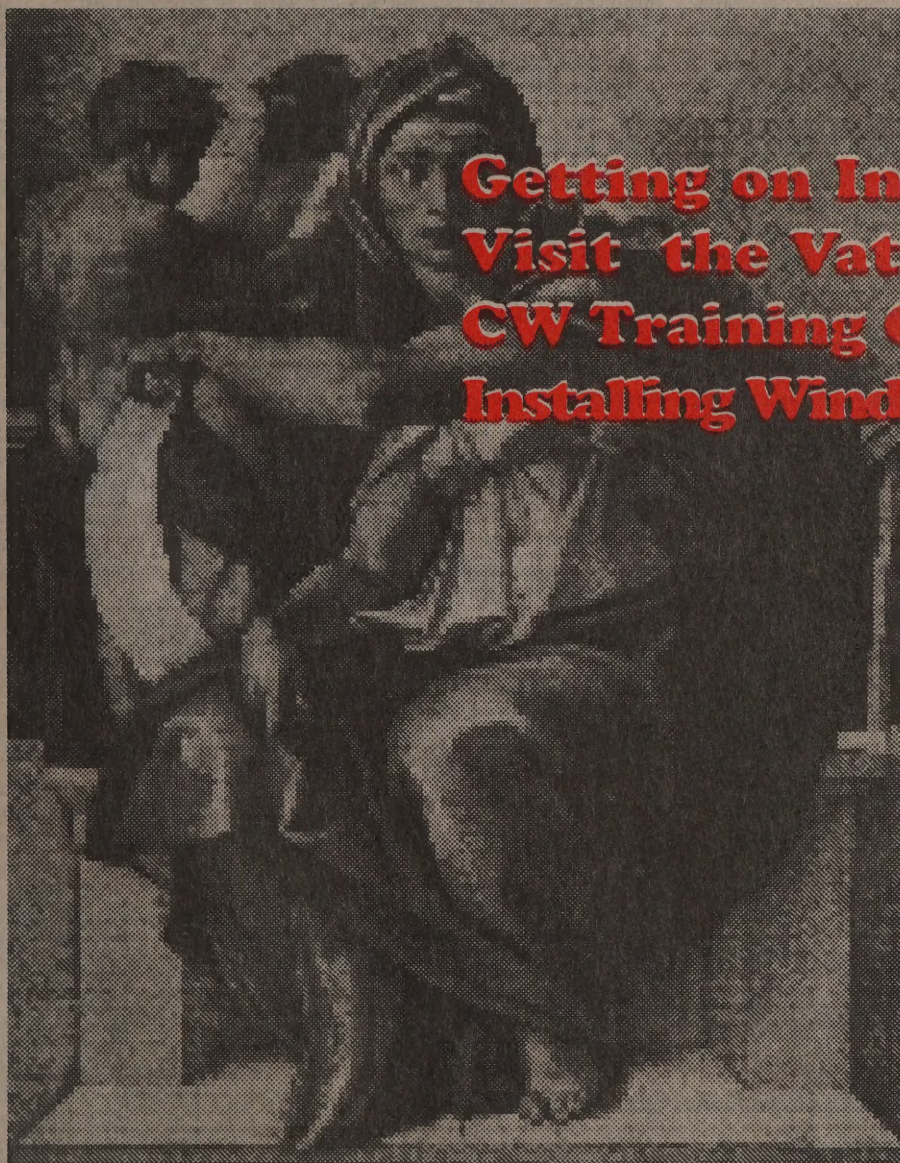


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SKIP

• February 1996

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet



**Getting on Internet
Visit the Vatican
CW Training Course
Installing Windows 95**

A View in the Sistine Chapel

Snapshots

Conference defers action on Morse code

The 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-95, opened in Geneva on October 23, and finished on schedule November 17. As described in November 1995 QST, page 106, this ITU conference dealt with a number of proposals to simplify the Radio Regulations and to expand mobile-satellite services.

One of the matters raised at the conference was a New Zealand proposal to delete from the radio regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (Radio Regulation 2735), the requirement that amateurs demonstrate Morse code ability in order to be licensed to operate below 30 MHz. The Conference did not accept this proposal, instead agreeing to include consideration of the amateur regulations on the provisional agenda for the 1999 WRC.

The broad language of the agenda item should also allow for consideration of any changes that might be necessary to achieve global recognition of an International Amateur Radio Permit.

Another preliminary agenda item for WRC-99 deals with the possibility of increasing the available spectrum for broadcasting, particularly between approximately 4 and 10 MHz. This raises concerns not only with regard to the 40 meter amateur band, but also for the top end of the 75 meter band, which is already allocated to broadcasting in ITU Regions 1 and 3.

Amateur Radio was represented at the conference by International Amateur Radio Union President Richard Baldwin, W1RU, secretary Larry Price, W4RA, and Region 1 vice chairman Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, was a member of the United States delegation, and other national delegations also had Amateur Radio representatives at the conference. - ARRL

Spread spectrum changes

The ARRL has asked the Federal Communications Commission to relax its spread-spectrum regulations to give Amateur Radio more opportunity to contribute to spread-spectrum development. The League's petition for rulemaking, filed in December, seeks relaxed restrictions on spreading sequences and greater flexibility in spreading modulation. The spread-spectrum technique, which distributes information among several synchronized frequencies within a band at the transmitter and reassembles the information at the receiver, was first approved for Amateur Radio in 1985 for bands above 225 MHz, and there has been some experimental amateur operation since then.

The petition proposes that the FCC permit brief test spread-spectrum transmissions and allow international spread-spectrum communications between amateurs in the US and those in countries that permit hams to use spread-spectrum techniques. The current rules allow only domestic communication. The petition also asks for automatic power-control provisions to insure use of minimum necessary power to conduct spread-spectrum communication and limit the potential for interference to narrowband modes. The petition does not ask for any changes in frequency restrictions on SS emissions, the 100 watt power limit or logging and identification requirements.

In urging the FCC to adopt the changes, the League's petition calls the proposals the minimum necessary changes in order to foster SS experimentation in the Amateur Service.

-ARRL

Trivia

The first packet message was sent around 9:00 pm on May 31, 1978 at the banquet hall of Bill Wong's Restaurant in Montreal, Canada. The particulars of the message are not certain since the participants did not bother to record it but it is reported to have been "From John DeMercado to the Montreal group - Bravo, well done!"

- From Tales of the Treasure Coast,

FCC PLAYING CATCH-UP BALL

The budget impasse is over for now, but FCC issuance of new ham radio licenses was further delayed this month by bad weather and a Monday holiday. The FCC reopened Thursday, January 11, but closed Friday, January 12, as more snow hit Washington, DC. Monday, January 15, was a Federal holiday, Martin Luther King Day. While open on January 11, the FCC accepted electronic amateur license application files for processing from VECs, including more than 1800 records from ARRL/VEC. The FCC was planning to expedite the application backlog, but needed to make some temporary software adjustments before granting licenses. It was expected to take several days after the January 15th holiday for the FCC to get back up to speed. Applicants wanting to check on license application status may call ARRL at 860-594-0300, 8 AM to 5 PM EST. Call sign and license upgrade information also is available on Internet sites, including the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, WEB site at <http://www.ualr.edu/doc/hamualr/callsign.html>. (Bart Jahnke, KB9NM)

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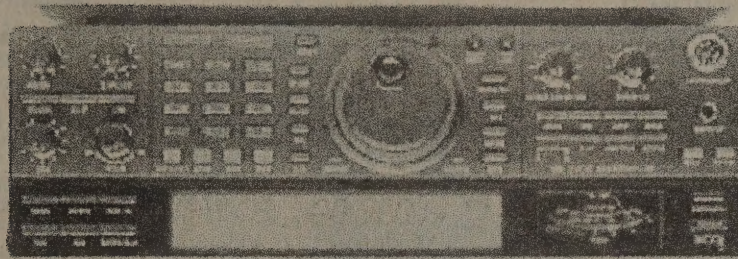
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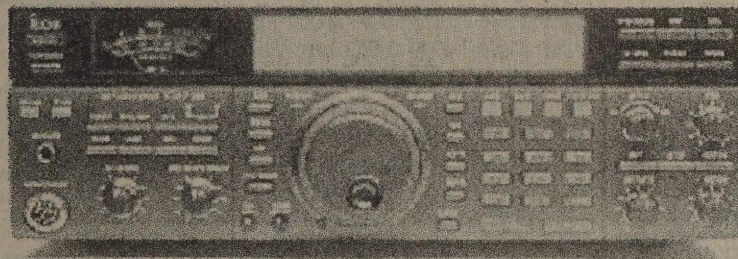
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From the Editor

Retirement (A Child's View)

A teacher asked her young pupils to write about what they did on their holidays and one small boy wrote the following:

"We always used to spend holidays with grandma and grandpa. They used to live in a big home, but grandpa got retarded, so they moved to Florida. Now they live with a lot of other retarded people in little tin boxes. They ride on big tricycle and wear name tags because they don't remember who they are. Sometimes they go to a building called a wreck hall. Somebody must have fixed it because it seems OK now. There they play games and do exercises, which don't seem to do them much good. There is a swimming pool there. They just get into the wa-

ter and stand around talking with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

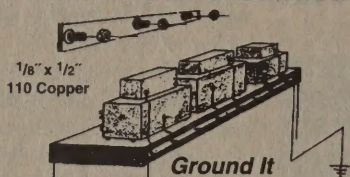


My grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody seems to cook anything, they just eat out. The eat the same thing every night — Early birds. I guess some of the people don't know how to cook at all, 'cause my grandma and grandpa bring food to the wrecked hall and call it pot luck. Grandma says grandpa worked all his life and earned his retardment, but I wish they would move back here. I guess the little old man in the doll house at the entrance of their park won't let them out."

Signed
Jimmy

-Compliments of Herb, KF4WW and
The Listening Post (OARC)

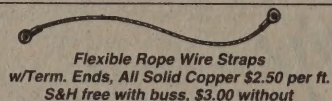
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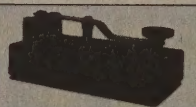
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SKIP

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From Larry, KE4ESV - SFAST Net Manager: Hi and Happy Winter everyone! The air is quite cool as I write this month's column, but the number of checkins and volume of traffic that SFAST handled for December was not. Our net handled 390 pieces of traffic and saw our checkins jump to 804. Not a bad showing for the last net to meet for outgoing and returning traffic in the late evening. A heartfelt thanks to all of our new and old members who help make the SFAST net pleasant, efficient and enjoyable. I hope that everyone will continue to visit our net often. We never have too many stations and outlets for the traffic that comes our way or for assisting in emergencies that occur from time to time.

Band conditions for the most part were kind to us during the month of December with QRN only an occasional problem for the net. I thank all of you for your continued tact and diplomacy when dealing with QRM. Please do not be afraid to move the net to another frequency if need be. The net preamble reads "on or about 3910 kHz", and most of us have had good success by moving up or down a few kilohertz. If that is not feasible, our radio neighbors on 3941 kHz have always accommodated our net when we ask to borrow the frequency. They have assured us more than once that they are happy to assist us.

I hope that the new year will be kind to all of you. I have enjoyed working and chatting with everyone during the past year and really looking forward to this year as well. I'm always interested in hearing comments, thoughts and suggestions. I can be reached via packet at KE4ESV@N4HHP, or on this net daily on or about 3940 kHz, at 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. eastern time. All are welcome. Hope to see you there and perhaps at the Miami Hamboree as well, the first weekend in February. Until then, 73/88 from Larry, KE4ESV.

From Russ, KC4ZHN - FMTN Net Manager: It came and went by so fast that we hardly realized it was here and gone... 1995 that is.

Florida Midday Traffic Net pitched in and handled over 400 pieces of traffic for the month of December. These guys and gals really are dedicated traffic handlers and it shows in the way they keep the traffic moving. Never need a traffic cop on this net. We can still use some help and really need someone who can reach the 5th region as a rep. I have tried on several occasions but can't seem to hear anyone well enough to pass anything. Maybe I'll raise

one of my antennas and try again but if there is someone out there who can get into the 5th Region, we can sure use the help. I hate to keep begging like this but can't seem to get people interested in helping out without these pleas.

Anyone who would like to try his or her hand at Net Control will be welcomed with open arms a copy of the preamble and all the help we can give. Don't sit back... jump in and get your feet wet. You might find it a satisfying part of traffic handling. We do perform a public service and the feeling you get when you deliver a message makes the whole thing worthwhile. Try your hand at this fascinating part of Ham Radio. Check in at Noon somewhere near 7.247 MHz. You will find a great group of people getting together waiting to welcome you. We are there seven days a week waiting. Give us a call. 73 es 88 from Russ, KC4ZHN in Hollywood.

From Earl, K4FQU - SWFTN Net Manager: This is a brand new year, 1996 and I sure hope it brings good things to everyone. HHP that is: Health, happiness and prosperity.

1995 was a good year for the net in spite of the earlier net which has been snagging a lot of our regular checkins. Although our QNI has suffered, our net has not because we still accomplish that which we were commissioned to do by the FMARC which is our sponsor.

I will not bore you with a lot of statistics about the differences between 1995 and 1994 but I promise to do a bit on them during one of the upcoming net sessions. Until then, I leave you this month with my heartfelt thanks for all your support and assistance in the past years and look forward to working with all of you again in 1996.

I leave you again with the heartiest wishes for a great new year coming. Earl, K4FQU.

From Larry, KE4ESV - BCEPN: This is the first of what we hope will be many columns by the BCEPN, the Broward County Emergency Preparedness Net. It is our hope that by sharing our activities with the readers, some of our experience could be considered for use elsewhere.

The BCEPN is essentially a 2 meter FM phone net that operates in conjunction with 10 meters (28.357 USB) 1.25 meters (224.960) 70 centimeters (444.825) and packet radio (KD4GR@KD4GR) as addi-

Larry McDermott, KE4ESV

tional modes of communication. We meet once weekly at 7 p.m. (Monday). The first 15 minutes the net is fragmented into individual stations checking into the net by any of the modes mentioned earlier. We have divided Broward County into four zones in order to ascertain who is located where in the county. During initial check in phase of the net, we utilize four different repeaters (146.985, 146.91 146.61, one under repair) each located in it's zone of service to take phone checkins. At 7:15 p.m., all stations move to a common repeater (146.91) for the balance and main portion of the net during which time general presentations are made, ideas are shared, recent events are discussed and future plans are presented. The Broward County ARES and RACES groups are combined into one organization to provide emergency communication for either civilian or government needs. It is not necessary to be an ARES/RACES member to check into the BCEPN and members are not required to check in. As subsequent columns will show, the two compliment one another. Next month, we will present how the BCEPN is organized and give a general overview of the type of events in which we participate. Until then - 73/88, Rich, KA2ZYM and Larry, KE4ESV.

From Jim, KD4GR - SFTN Net Manager: 1995 was a good year for the Southeast Florida Traffic Net. Monthly statistics throughout the year were on the rise. New hams presented in abundance to learn traffic handling. Several new Net Control Stations were implemented as well as several new Alternate NCS. Our Tuesday evening "Traffic Tips" was a great success and made possible by those that volunteered their informative sessions. The weekly "News Letter" put on packet throughout South Florida by KB4WBY was another success. Our Semi-annual picnic, with awards presentations, was another of our successful activities. Many thanks to our Net Control Stations, Net Reps, Manager and Asst. Managers and most of all, the daily participants that keep the net going.

Statistics for December included 1049 stations, 472 traffic and 1777 minutes of net time during 31 consecutive sessions.

Statistics for 1995: Stations 12,393, traffic 4929, bulletins 396 and new members 192.

Continued on page 8

Florida CW Nets

Ed Roller, K4IA

QFN reported by Morton, WX4H:

When you read this, all of 1995 will have been passed. Thanks for all the help in bringing traffic to QFN and taking it on to other nets. The net roster remains about the same all the time. We have sporadic checkins from out-of-state that bring traffic and, of course, the net manager appreciates it.

Just heard from the returnees concerning the Fort Myers hamfest. Sounds like a good time had by all. WV5Z and KA2YZM from Tamarac phone net fame were the southeast Florida attraction of the day. Kevin does a great job on Mondays handling NCS and moving the traffic.

Wish we had more people on the net to help us out with other duties. We are looking for RN5 reps for a few nights, however we are pretty well covered on 4RN except for reserves. I don't know the status of N2WX as NCS for Saturday. Thanks to KC4ZHF, W4VQQ, W1KAM, KC4ZHN, W4IYT and KJ4UW for attending the net when they can.

AB4EA is back with traffic and is our gateway to Canada where he is VE3ISD. WA9VND has lots of traffic to move from W4HAW in West Palm Beach. AB4XK of Eagle Lake is extraordinarily busy as NCS, 4RN, RN5 and made BPL for the third December in a row. Chet also publishes the QFN Letter that is mailed to net members. Others very active are: K4SCL, AE4KX, WA4EIC, KA4FZI, WC4D, AA4BN, N4EC, N4XS, N4SS, SM AA4HT and Net Mgr. WX4H.

Come to QFN in February and spend some time handling Saint Valentine's Day traffic. Operations on 3651 kHz at 7 and 10 p.m. every day. 73, Morton.

FMSN reported by Laura, WA9VND:

The December statistics were QNI 308, QTC 288 with QND 589 thanks to AA4FG who brought a bundle of traffic to the net. All the holiday festivities are a pleasurable memory now and have gone down in history.

The new year will bring many new happenings and we look forward to the challenge. The weather has warmed up so I look to stations to warm up the key and check in anytime. FMSN is on at 5:30 p.m. every day on 3561 kHz. We will be happy to welcome you. Give us a try. 88, Laura

Gator Net reported by ?: Dan, W4DL opted to take an early retirement. Gator needs a reporter. Anyone interested?

CW Training Net

QFNS reported by Gary, KE4DNO:

New to CW and interested in increasing your proficiency while learning traffic handling skills? QFNS, the All Florida Slow CW Traffic Net is the place for you. We meet daily at 8 p.m. EST on 3.715 kHz.

Last month's column mentioned a new training course designed to accomplish both of the objectives mentioned above. And the nicest thing about it is that you move through the course at your own pace. No pressure, no stress — just a series of 40-odd training messages sent when requested (limited to one message per night).

To avail yourself of this opportunity, check into QFNS and ask for the training message desired. For example, suppose you have no traffic but wish to receive training message 3. When the NCS sends "QFNS QNI K" respond with "de [your callsign]

QRU tng msg 3 pse." Then just follow the NCS's directions.

If the NCS decides to have the message sent to you on the net frequency, you'll probably be asked to wait ("pse AS") until all or most of the other stations are released from the net. If the NCS decides to have you get the message earlier, you'll receive instructions to move off the net frequency with another station) e.g., if the NCS wants you to go from 3.715 to 3.710 kHz, you'll be told "dwn 5"). In that case, remember that the receiving station always goes to the designated frequency and calls the sending station.

If you find 3710 is busy, go down until you find a clear frequency and then call the sending station. In the same fashion, should you be sent "up 5" and find 3.720 in use, move up until you find a clear frequency within the limits of your frequency privileges, then go back to the net frequency and send your call sign suffix plus "NG" (no good, need assistance) to indicate you were not able to make contact. Then wait for additional instructions.

This month I'd like to give special recognition to those net members who, in addition to acting as NCS, also support QFNS as reps to and from QFN: OB (WC4D), Miss Phil (KA4FZI), Rip (AA4HT), Laura (WA9VND), and Bob (KC4ZHF). Many thanks to all of you for your fine work. Chas (KD4OGV) was with us a number of times during Dec and it's certainly good to have him back, even on a limited basis. Ford (KB4WBY) was with us twice and we hope to also hear him much more frequently. We also were visited by Ed (K4IA) of Punta Gorda. Bob (KC4ZHF) again led our group in Dec with 29 out of a possible 31 checkins. OB (WC4D) was next with 26 checkins.

Please remember that a warm welcome always awaits you on QFNS and we look forward to having you join us often. May 1996 be a year that overflows with good health, prosperity and happiness for you and your entire family. 73 and God bless. Gary, KE4DNO, QFNS Net Manager, 904-228-3488 (Lake Helen FL).

Note from Ed: QFNS Manager Gary, KE4DNO has introduced an innovative approach to our efforts to train and produce competent CW traffic handlers. Be sure to read his plan above, then take a listen to QFNS. If all goes as planned, they may need more experienced operators to send training messages. 73, Ed.

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Letters



From C. R. Banks, KT4BE of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

A long time ago I said to myself, "If you pass extra class, you can build that 20 meter kit you want". So, I passed months ago and assembled my Ramsey 10 watt SSB/CW rig.

After making two nice contacts on a Friday afternoon and I tried again the next day, on a very quiet - it seemed - frequency. Next, I heard, "Hey, Ft. Lauderdale, did you ever hear about listening before you transmit? There is a net going on here!" No ID of course. Nice welcome to 20 meters. World class net-type personalities.

After dialing around, I found this net down 1.5 kHz, moaning the fact no one builds their own equipment any more. Am I missing something here? My 20 meter rig is on the shelf now. Sri.

Ed. Note. Maybe I'm missing something. I trust you ask if the frequency was clear first. Regarding net personalities, that was mild compared to some of the antics on 20 meters. Rather than shelving your rig, you might want to modify it for QRP operation and operate on their frequencies. ger//

From Bob Bowden, KC4ZHF of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Reference the January Issue of Florida Skip and the article entitled "Okeechobee 1995".

I cannot believe that you allowed this article to be printed. It is opinionated and not in good taste. I would think that if an individual had comments of this nature and/or suggestions, that he would direct his/her comments to the Hamfest Committee rather than "Bash" them thru the media.

Ed. Note. I can't believe you never read a negative book review. That's media bashing at it's finest. If you read his glowing tribute to the hamfest (February 1994) you might view his comments on this year's hamfest as caustic constructive criticism. But then, that's my opinion. ger//

From Herb Foster, AD4UA of Melbourne, FL

Reference the new look in Florida Skip: I presume the January issue is a fair sample of what's coming, and from here it looks great.

In particular I'm very pleased with Compuforum by Steve Iezzi, KT4FY and the piece on page 16, "A trip with Internet Phone" by ye honorable editor.

Sailfish Chapter

Well we finally got another Hot-Line Report from headquarters!

For the CW hounds there is an article about using CW to communicate with your computer. This is used by handicapped people to communicate, especially spinal cord injured persons. The organization is called Morse 2000 and is run by WF9I, Dr. Thomas W. King (E-Mail address: kingtw@uwec.edu). The article tells about a young man who began his accounting degree at a local college and sat for his CPA exam two years later using Morse Code to communicate and write all his papers on his computer!

The Hot Line also reminds members who have dropped out that they do not have to pay all their back dues in order to be an active member again. They can just pay the dues due now and get their old membership number back and a new membership card.

The Sailfish QCWA meeting for December was handled by Vice-President Don Lovett, K8BXT, in the absence of President Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK who had a doctor's appointment. The major item of business was to hold an election of officers for 1996. There being no nominations for any office, the Secretary cast one ballot for those presently in office and they were elected. A real "railroad" job!!

Remember the local Sailfish Chapter #82 QCWA meets on the third Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Flamingo Restaurant and all members of QCWA National are invited to attend as are those hams who may be eligible now or soon. 73 for now. Bill Jochimsen, K4ZK, President.

- Tnx Common Emitter, MCARA

Although I'm not on the Internet, I'm very interested in the subject and eager to get some solid information. I'm sure there'll be more of the same as future issues of Skip hit the street.

Three rousing cheers!

Ed. Note. Three humble thank you's. Coincidentally, the article in the spread this month attempts to provide some basics for getting on the Internet. I plan more articles dealing with browsers and helper applications. Steve designs computers and software applications so he's never at a loss for a new articles. Besides that, he's getting to be a HOT CW operator. ger//

QCWA News

Eli Nannis, K4JMH

Spaceport Chapter #66

The Spaceport Chapter, in the area surrounding the Kennedy Space Center and the Cape Canaveral rocket launch facilities, has been active, involved and interested in QCWA and other amateur radio activities for more than twenty years. Our meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at the Dixie Restaurant on US-1, Cocoa, starting at 11:30 in the morning.

Election of officers for 1996 chose Art Greene, K4DQC for President; John Nauman, W9CN Vice President; Bonny Lathen, WB9TUM Secretary; and Bill Meussig, K4FD for Treasurer.

1995 brought a 50-year certificate to Penny Bowen, W4SLD. Bob Baird, W9nn, charter member of QCWA who usually visits us during the winter, could not make it last year but we look forward to seeing him soon. Sadly, Larry McGrath, W4MEN and Bill Vissers, K4KI became Silent Keys during the year.

We look forward to a year of interesting, pleasant and friendly exchanges concerning our lives and the State-of-the-Art which have been the nature of our meeting for many years. Art Greene, K4DQC.

Ed. Note: The QCWA News Editor Eli Nannis, K4JMH has been appealing to QCWA chapters to submit information about their chapters. This editor (ger) received the Spaceport report (unsolicited) and perhaps others will follow the example of Art Greene and tell others about your activities. At the time of printing, Eli's report had not been received. ger//



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Knights of the Kilocycle

Don Browne, KQ4YM

Former Master Oscillators and CO2KK check in to the Net

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating its 66th anniversary of operation. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been over 530 memberships awarded to amateur operators. The net welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net.

The Knights welcomed many old member and new check-ins this month. Former Master Oscillator Dwight N4POA checked in from Sarasota where he is living now while working on a new project there. Also, Les, W4SPA from Eustis, member number 360 made a check-in. Les was Master Oscillator in 1968 and 1969.

Other long-time members making recent check-ins included John, W4GUJ of High Springs; Roger, W9ZSW of Clearwater; Gil, WB4QPW of Merritt Island and Bill, KA2RCE of Palm Center.

The Knights received their first international check-in in recent memory. New checkins included Arnie, CO2KK calling from Havana, Cuba. Arnie is a professor at the University of Havana and broadcasts a

twice-weekly radio show for hams on Radio Havana. Arnie gives weekly propagation forecasts and ham operating tips during the fifteen minute program. You can hear Arnie's broadcast at approximately 9:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays on 6.000 MHz.

We also welcomed Bob, W4NWF. Bob has been licensed for 65 years and is active in the QCWA.

Marian, KC4MFT of New Port Richey reported success on her tomato crop and had a nice bunch of fried green tomatoes to eat.

Stan, W4JKK of Sebastian is marking time waiting for the Bass in his lake to grow larger before he set a hook for it.

Bob, W4KOG of North Palm Beach has been busy keeping track of the winter crop of hamfest schedules of which he reports to the net weekly.

The sunspot cycle is still at the low point but seems to slowly be improving. There were several very good openings on 10 meters last month. The 75 meter band has also been very long at times. We still hear the Indiana hams occasionally on Sunday mornings. Good times are ahead though as we slowly wait for the improvement in propagation that will surely come.

We encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 3910 Kilocycles.

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

W4ZUT - Leonard "Mike" Warren, Key West
K4VSH - Reginald R. "Bud" Chanacki, Jacksonville
KB4GCZ - Richard A. Lumb, Key West
KB4DBU - Arthur Beetle, St. Petersburg
W1ALB - Raymond Legro, Sarasota
WA2CUJ - Irwin C. Cohen, Jupiter
WB2EID - Lindus L. Caulum, Zephyrhills
WB2WHI - Elizabeth Widmann, Crawfordville
KC4QS - Truman Sims, Clearwater
WA4TDD - Geraldine R. Grantges, Belleair Beach
KE4TIC - Kenneth Schweikert, Stuart
WB4YGI - Robert N. Olson, Milton
W8LSF - Robert J. Kolb, Jupiter
W0SOJ - John E. Hyde, Naples
W0WIT - Paul M. Kersten, Nokomis

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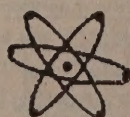
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* The ARRL QSL Service mailed a total of 1,428,850 QSL cards during 1995. That approaches five tons of members' cards.

FL Phone -Continued from page 5

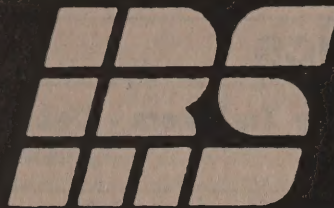
December was the 99th consecutive month with over 1000 stations checking into the net. KF4CBD was number 1000 on December 30th and WB4PAM was NCS. Congrats Ron.

Those maintaining 100% checkin status during December were: PZ1BK, KD4GR, KS4JK, KB4WBY and KC4ZHN.

Join the Southeast Florida Traffic Net daily at 6 p.m. local time on the 146.19/79 repeater.

73/88 and Happy New Year de KD4GR, Net Manager, KB4WBY & KC4ZHF Asst. Net Managers.

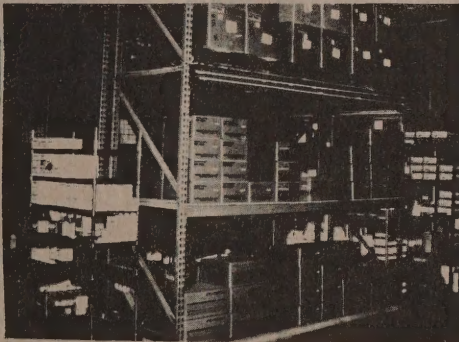
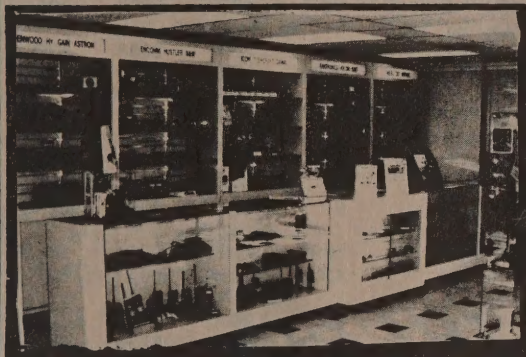
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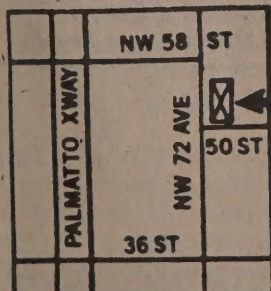


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Statistics

Top Twenty Traffickers - Dec. 1995

- by AA4HT and WX4J

Station	Total	Station	Total
1 WX4H	3666	11 AB4XK	825
2 W3CUL	2911	12 W7AM	744
3 W3VR	1362	13 WV5Z	697
4 WA9VN	1232	14 KA2YZ	627
5 N0ZO	1162	15 AA4HT	623
6 K4FQU	1016	16 WA4ND	607
7 KE4DN	895	17 N4RHJ	474
8 NR2F	876	18 KB4WB	468
9 K4SCL	873	19 W4DL	298
10 KB6EC	837	20 KC4ZH	264

Traffic Hounds - Dec. 1995

- by Kevin Bunin, WV5Z STM SFL

Net	QNI	Avg.	QTC	Avg.	Ses.	Mgr.	QTC/QNI
AIN	55	18.3	1	0.3	3	WA4ATF	0.02
BECPN	136	45.3	3	1	3	KA2YZM	0.02
DEN	263	65.8	10	2.5	4	N4LTT	0.04
ENMC	27	9	3	1	3	KB4UEI	0.11
EPAN	392	15.7	143	5.7	25	AD4BL	0.36
FAST	804	13	390	6.3	62	KE4ESV	0.49
FMSN	308	9.9	288	9.3	31	WA9VND	0.94
FMTN	445	14.4	405	13.1	31	KC4ZHN	0.91
FPON	187	13.4	73	5.2	14	WB4GCK	0.39
FPTN	1369	44.2	295	9.5	31	WN4IIV	0.22
GN	225	7.3	363	11.7	31	W4DL	1.61
LCATTN							
NFAN	1125	45	358	14.3	25	WA4NDA	0.32
NFPN	875	28.2	228	7.4	31	AD4DO	0.26
PBCEN	140	35	4	1	4	KE4CGQ	0.03
PBTN	939	36.1	86	3.3	26	KE4CGQ	0.09
PCAN	150	50	3	1	3	KD4EFM	0.02
PCSN	29	14.5	0	0	2	KE4RVP	0
QFN	858	13.8	798	12.9	62	WX4H	0.93
QFNS	199	6.4	70	2.3	31	KE4DNO	0.35
SEFTN	1049	33.8	472	15.2	31	KD4GR	0.45
SFAN	48	16	11	3.7	3	KD4GR	0.23
SNMC							
SPARC	687	22.2	31	1	31	N4ZMQ	0.05
SVTN	692	23.1	272	9.1	30	KE4DNO	0.39
SWFTN	441	17	516	19.8	26	K4FQU	1.17
TPTN	783	25.3	464	15	31	NR2F	0.59
VCTN	322	10.4	108	3.5	31	KE4DNO	0.34
TOTAL	5395					AVG	0.40

South Florida BBS Totals - Dec. 1995

- by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
K0ZXF	1	504	8881	9386
K4VJI	50	1175	4956	6181
KB4GBS	17	1455	8513	9985
KB4VOL	88	1217	4724	6029
KB4WUA	1	618	6453	7072
KC4YEK	2	167	778	947
KD4GR	30	1026	5074	6130
KD4AMS	0	29	540	569
KD4INY	5	236	6125	6366
KD4MJV	27	3071	7294	10392
KD4MZM		-NO REPORT-		
KD4WLE	12	169	2023	2204
KD4UBZ		-NO REPORT-		
KD6ZZ	0	293	5033	5326
KE2IX	467	2427	6506	9400
KE4AQU		-NO REPORT-		
KE4BXF		-NO REPORT-		
KE4CRB	42	1343	5938	7323
KE4CRB-2	47	2022	8498	10567
KF4BPX	0	522	3906	4428
KF4OJ	0	269	3966	4235
KI4ZJ		-NO REPORT-		
KN4YT	162	2058	8058	10278
KP4EDL	12	1254	4997	6263
N1OUT		-NO REPORT-		
N4AWX	35	2600	5790	8425
N4HHP	153	3224	5735	9112
N4JOA	9	162	5028	5199
N4XEO	53	1669	5870	7592
W1NPR		-NO REPORT-		
W4DPH	445	7554	8217	16216
W4MWP	29	593	6373	6995
W4OT		-NO REPORT-		
W8DUV	87	1344	7907	9338
WA2LKI		-NO REPORT-		
WB2WPA	11	870	5060	5941
WB4MOZ	31	717	5055	5803
WB4TEM	110	1093	5107	6310
WD4NKZ		-NO REPORT-		
WD8IBY	93	634	9279	10006

NTS TOTAL: 2019 — Great Holiday total!

Hmmm! Looks like a few had too much Christmas eggnog or New Year's whoopee and forgot their reports. Let's try to do better next month!

If you have any questions, or need the software utilities to generate your BBS report, drop me a note with your name, address and size floppy needed. There's no charge. The utilities work with all types of bbs software except TCP/IP (NOS.)

Remember, North Florida BBS's should send their reports to N4GMU @ N4GMU. South Florida BBS's to KB4VOL @ KB4VOL. Reports MUST be sent on the 1st covering BBS activity for the previous month. Please participate! But, if you'd rather not, drop me a note and I'll take your call off the list. That way you won't suffer the embarrassment of having everyone see the -NO REPORT- next to your call every month.

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ KB4VOL,
ARRL Packet Manager South Florida.

North Florida BBS Totals - Dec. 1995

- by Dave Sutherland, N4GMU

CALL	BUL	PERS	NTS	TOTAL
AA4RU	8715	2666	192	11573
KK4CQ	4887	852	119	5858
W1FJI				
K4GBB	4628	555	58	5241
N4GMU	2414	2021	347	4784
KC4HQS	2341	559	80	2980
WN4IIV	4686	1106	74	5866
WX4J	101	738	1962	3001
N4JTS	2127	129	11	2267
N8NEU				
WD4NOD	2913	840	245	3998
K4OZS	4533	192	11	4736
KE4SZP				
KB4T	2216	318	23	2557
W4WEB	1113	292	4	1409
N4ZKF				
N0ZO	142	4327	1152	5621
N1NFC(GA)	72	777	116	965

Total NTS traffic for NFL:4390

are doing and share some of our teaching tips. I have seen several great newsletter already being published for their area and I would like to work with them as part of a section wide newsletter.

I am also looking for contact people from around the state of Florida. These contact people must be willing and able to work with individuals or groups of people interested in amateur radio or starting an amateur radio club in their organization. When people contact me about amateur radio, I will get their name and other information and send it to a contact person who is closest to them. That contact person would then work with that person or organization.

If you or anyone know works with a youth organization or you want to be a contact person for your area, please contact:

Bruce Reid, WB9SHT
4572 SE Paley Rd.

Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953
407-336-5608 (H)

407-220-0034 X 429 (W)

Packet: WB9SHT@KB4VOL

e-mail: tclmar2@mail.firn.edu

or

Phyllis West, KA4FZI
1410 Shelby Pkwy

Cape Coral, FL 33904-5761
941-574-3467 (H)



CQ CQ - All Florida Youth Teachers

I am looking for everyone who teaches or works with any youth organizations in amateur radio. These organizations can be anything such as Private/Public Schools, Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA/YWCA, Boys/Girls Clubs, 4H, church groups, or any other organization that works with young people grades K - 12.

My name is Bruce Reid, WB9SHT and I have been appointed Assistant Section Manager - South Florida for youth activities. If you or anyone you know is working with any youth organization, I want to know who you are. Like many of you who are reading this article, I work with young people for I am a public school teacher. I have started 2 middle school amateur radio clubs in Martin County and have helped in getting 25 students licensed.

The first major goals for this year is to find out what is happening out there in the South Florida Section! There are a lot of great teachers doing a fantastic job of presenting amateur radio, teaching classes on amateur radio, and sponsoring amateur radio clubs for their students. I want to develop a data base of these great teachers, so we can find out what is happening educationally K - 12.

The second major goal is to develop and publish a quarterly newsletter for the students, clubs, and teachers. With the help of Phyllis West, KA4FZI and the teachers of the South Florida Section, we will be able to keep each other informed about what we

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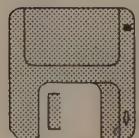
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Owned and operated by KC4UFI (Jerry Russell), and KD4MIW (Sharon Russell).

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Installing Windows 95

By now, you're probably tired of hearing about this operating system. You would think, from the hype, that we have actually solved some serious business. Will Windows 95 solve the federal budget impasse? I doubt it. One Microsoft executive summed it up nicely when asked why people lined up at Midnight to buy this program. He said "It's just an Operating System".

In a previous article, I suggested that we would be better off waiting for the dust to settle before rushing off to buy your shiny new copy of Windows 95. I still believe this is true. The fact still remains that very few people have experience installing Windows 95. If you listen to the hype, installation is automatic. I don't believe it.

Well, it's been months now since the grand introduction and I have followed my own advice and avoided 95 like the plague. But, I knew I wouldn't last. My curiosity would eventually get the better of me. The slick shiny box and the advertising just got under my skin. It's like that new DSP rig. Sure, they really don't work that much better except in the most demanding of applications, but I just have to have it.

At least, discretion got the better part of lust and I decided to try loading Windows 95 on somebody else's box (mine works just fine as it is, thank you).

For the acid test, I chose a typical computer that a HAM would own. It was a 386 processor running 25 Megahertz. I put a few more SIMM memories in the motherboard to bring the memory up to 8 Megabytes (I didn't even attempt a load with only four). This box had a standard IDE hard drive, two floppies (some stuff still comes on 5 1/4" disks), a VGA adapter, a sound card, and a double speed CD ROM drive plugged into the sound card. Sound familiar? These were very popular about four years ago and there are still plenty of them around. All of the I/O devices connected to ISA cards plugged in the motherboard. There was no such thing as VESA Local Bus or PCI. E-IDE didn't exist and I couldn't update to it because they all require some kind of 32 bit card which my box wouldn't support.

This box had DOS 6.2 and Windows 3.1 running and it worked just fine. For the average home user, it would still do everything you needed; DOS was just a few clicks away. I use HAMCOMM for RTTY and HAMCALC to help me design antennas, filters, and other things that a HAM just has

to have. These programs run in DOS and DOS only. Once converted to Windows 95, I didn't know what to expect.

Installation was easy enough. I opened file manager in Windows and double clicked "SETUP" on the Windows 95 CD. From that point, everything was automatic. Several screens popped up asking for the serial number of the install disk and the number of programs which I wanted to put on my hard disk. If you install everything, Windows 95 takes up over 100 Megabytes of storage. A big hard disk, at least 350 Megabytes, is a must.

Everything went fine until the sound card installed. I have a Sound Blaster Clone from Oak Technologies, a Mozart card. It's a pretty common card and as a matter of fact, their are drivers for it on the Microsoft FTP site. Well, Windows 95 installed this card as a Sound Blaster Pro and when I heard the first sound, the mouse froze, the system locked up, and my install was over. To say I was frustrated would be an understatement. I had already invested an hour watching the blue screens flash and listening to my hard drive grunt. Now, I figured I would have to start over. Actually I didn't. I rebooted the machine and typed "F5" when the Operating System started to boot. This brings Windows 95 up in "Safe Mode". Safe Mode ignores all the drivers which talk to hardware and at least comes up. From here I was able to turn off the driver to the sound card. Now I could reboot and finish the install.

Windows 95 came up this time and I was able to finish the install. I was far enough in that I didn't have to start over. I figured the system crashed because it used Sound Blaster drivers so I proceeded with loading the Mozart Drivers. They crashed too.

Well, I've had problems with sound cards before and invariably, it always involved Direct Memory Access or DMA for short. PC compatibles support DMA through the ISA bus but only a few devices actually use it. DMA copies data directly to memory at the highest speed that the

Steve Iezzi, KT4FY

hardware will run. For slower processor, DMA can really speed things up. In this system, the floppy drives and the sound card were the only things that used DMA. To test my theory, I tried copying files in DOS mode to and from the floppy drive. Sure enough, the copy failed with a cryptic error message that the stack had overflowed. The machine froze and I had to reset the hardware to bring it back. DMA problems are almost always related to memory configuration and it turns out that I had not configured the CMOS RAM correctly when I added the extra four Meg of memory. The DMA to the new memory was failing. I corrected the problem and continued with my install.

Now that the hardware was working, I expected the sound card install to work as well. I invoked the "Add New Hardware" Wizard in the control panel and followed the instructions for installing the sound card. After the install was complete, I rebooted as requested and the sound card came up. The volume control didn't work and I could barely hear any sound in the speakers. Worse yet, the CD ROM icon disappeared from the "MY Computer" window. This was getting ridiculous. I tried adding the CD ROM but Windows needed the CD ROM to get the drivers for the CD ROM. This was really smart. NOT!

I noticed that as Windows 95 was booting, the sound initialization operated just as it did under DOS 6.2. After a few well placed phone calls, I discovered the "SYSEDIT" command. This program brings

Continued on page 30

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or you can view their web page at:
<http://freemark.com/>



Citta del Vaticano

An outstanding page on the Web is Citta del Vaticano, better known as the Vatican. I'm not peddling religious sites, in fact I'm not Catholic. If you ever wanted to put your video display to the test, you'll tax it to the limit at the Vatican. The Vatican page is considered one of the Top 100 sites on the Web.

The page offers a spiritual experience no matter what religion you espouse. In addition to 100's of spectacular photo-

graphs, one can listen to audio snippets using a Real Audio Player. If you don't have a player, you can download it on the spot.

Included in the location are speeches, homilies and addresses by the Pope and compilations of articles and news items published by the Holy See. Understandably there are many articles addressing issues unique to the Catholic doctrine.

Theology aside, if you appreciate artwork or appreciate viewing the architecture of the Vatican, you should take the tour of the Vatican. Be prepared for some hangin' around time because some of the views are complex and packed with a multitude of colors. Your patience will be taxed as you wait for some of the images to appear on your screen.

There is an interesting section on the Vatican Radio. Vatican Radio broadcasts 24 hours/day 365 days a year in 37 languages. The Vatican produces 400 programming hours per week for their broadcasts that are transmitted on shortwave, medium wave, FM, satellite and Internet. One can listen to recent newscasts using the Real Audio Player.

There is more than the average bear can view in one sitting. For example, during my first tour, I walked around Vatican City (255 images) and marveled at the interior of the Sistine Chapel (325 images). I hadn't even melted the tip of the iceberg. However my modem approached meltdown. But it was worth it - I guarantee.

Check it out at:

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/citta/0-Citta.html>

Ed Note: In the last part of the address (0-Citta.html) that is a zero and not an "oh".

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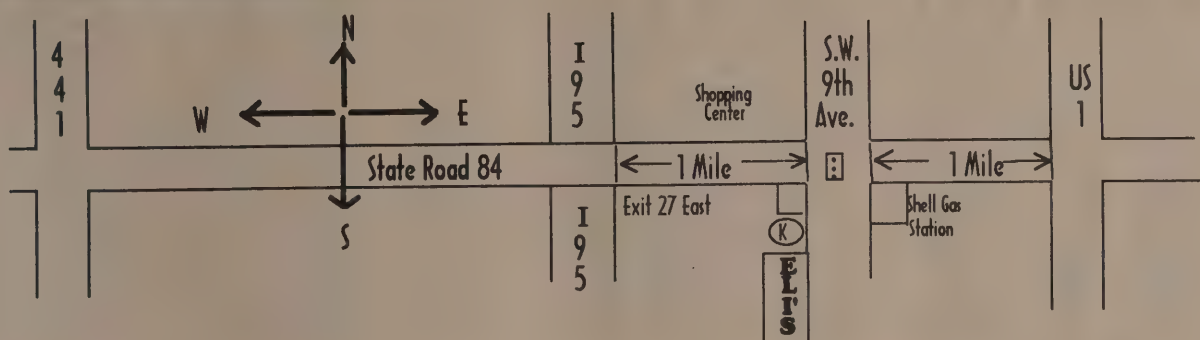
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Getting on Internet

Ed. Note. *Since Skip has expanded its coverage of computers and the Internet, I have received a significant number of letters and phone calls for me to unravel some of the mystery of getting on the Internet. The Internet is not reserved for computer geeks and slick computer operators. The current web browsers are designed to simplify and consolidate complex computer operations that even the computer-semi-literate can master. Sometimes it distresses me that many deny themselves access to a wealth of valuable information because they lack the basics of computer operation or the perception that navigating the Internet is beyond their capabilities. ger//*

"Browsers, dowsers, super highways, hypertext - it's giving me hypertension!" some say. Just about every way one turns nowadays, one gets tangled in the tentacles of internet.

A large percentage of computer owners have never gone beyond wordprocessing, household budgets, games and hobby applications. In many cases, computers are expensive dust collectors and learning to use them seems a daunting task.

Those reluctant to learn basic computer operation are denying themselves access to the fertile fields of the Internet. More and more companys are present on the net. One can visit a company on the web, review new products or perhaps register complaints about a particular product. Investors can monitor the stock market and speculate using any number of analytical schemes available.

More and more, we are becoming dependent on the internet for access to the tons of information available to the public. The information is immediately available and probably more easily obtained than by the older and slower mail method.

One can purchase products via the internet. Although the concept of virtual cash or transmitting credit card information across the net is still a matter of controversy, many companies employ clever techniques to obtain this information in a safe, secure manner.

That's not to say there isn't a glut of useless information on the web. Like anything, there is a price to pay. There is the furor of sex on the net. It's there for sure but you don't have to look at it. It appears to me

Many computer owners park their computers on a shelf. Getting on the Internet seems a daunting task.

that one is most vulnerable to "unwanted sex" in the chat channels or internet phone. One never knows the intentions of the party on the other end of the conversation. Of course, one must avoid the chat channels that publically announce their intentions. If you're "victimized", disconnect or go somewhere else. But, if you're so inclined, join in. Contrary to impression given by the media and government officials, pornography doesn't lurk around every corner of the internet.

Dust off your computer

Aside from formatting your hard disk, there are few catastrophic things one can do to a computer. In most cases one will get messages of protest from the computer if



you do something stupid. Most of us who think we know something about the stupid computer, get those stupid messages and later find out we're not so smart after all.

If you do something really, really stupid, chances are the computer will gag and possibly suffer cardiac arrest. The RESET button is invaluable for solving these problems.

The new computer user should bear in mind the computer is extremely subservient. It follows directions to a T. Tell it to do something dumb - it does dumb things. For this reason, every new computer user should purchase one or all of the books for "Dummies". No - I ain't kiddin'. There is a whole series of computer books for "Dummies"; DOS for Dummies, Windows for Dummies, PCs for Dummies et al.

With virtually all machines geared for Windows or Windows 95, I would recommend one of the Dummies for whatever level of Windows you are using.

Get that machine off the shelf, turn it on and dink around. Take a basic computer course. There are many computer user groups and community colleges that offer them. Buy a six-pack of your favorite beverage and invite your computer-literate buddy over for an evening of OJT. It won't be long before you'll know just enough to be dangerous. Chances are, you'll be dangerous enough to get on Internet. I get a lot of calls from people who tell me they have enough problems turning on their computer, let alone trying to get on the World Wide Web.

Getting on the Web is just as complicated as double-clicking on your word-processing icon to bring up the application. It just struck me to recommend that one might learn the in's and out's of mouse operation. Of course, with two or three buttons to master, it shouldn't take too long. But seriously, getting around the Web is a lot easier with a mouse.

Gettin' on the Web

The problems of getting on the Web have just about NOTHING to do with operating a computer. The first priority is to get a good browser. A browser is the software package that translates all the mysterious notations and characters of the Internet into dazzling displays on your monitor and basically boils down most operations to pointing and clicking your mouse. Even single digit operation of a keyboard is tolerable.

The second priority is to obtain an Internet service provider that sells telephone access to the Internet. For a fixed monthly fee a provider usually provides a certain number of hours per month and a

No big deal!

nominal fee for each hour over your limit. Also, most of the online services (CompuServe, AOL, Prodigy) allow access to the Internet but are more restrictive than access through a provider.

Typically, one can get more favorable rates by subscribing to the Internet provider for fixed periods such as 3 months, 6 months or 1 year as opposed to paying monthly - usually the highest rate on the scale.

The amount of time allocated to the user varies with the provider. For instance, Cybergate in Miami give you 55 hours per month - Florida Online in Cocoa allows 100 hours per month. There is plenty of competition with the rates vs. hours varying all over. Shop around for your comfort level.

There are scads of providers cropping up all over the place and competition is having some impact on connection costs. But, one must be wary of the provider's capabilities. The minimum comfortable baud rate for internet operation is 14.4 kbps with 28.8 being much more desirable. Of course the new internet user should have a modem with 14.4 kbps as a minimum capability. If you ever thought the U.S Mail was slow, try viewing some of the home pages at 2400 bps. You might have to wait a few days before you get to see it.

Another consideration for providers is the number of telephone lines they can accommodate. Most net surfers spend at least an hour on the net at a time. If your provider only can accommodate 4 lines, you can be pretty dang sure the line will be busy every time you try to get on. Many of the newly emerging internet providers are like the neighborhood grocery stores; they just don't carry all the goods. But everyone has to start somewhere.

Before you run out and buy a browser you know little about, it's wise to choose your provider. Many of the providers supply new users with a software package that at a minimum gives you a browser and e-mail capability. Once you establish your account and password, you can connect to a special phone number and in a few whirrs and clicks, download the software. Some will send you a disk containing the software. In all cases, simple instructions guide you to its installation. More often than not it involves nothing more than instructing the computer to run install.exe or setup.exe. The installation program leads you through the setup and may ask you for some informa-

tion that you should already have available. No big deal.

The installation program most likely sets up an application group with icons representing the various applications ie. browser, dialer, read me files, e-mail. Most of the installation programs set up the initialization files to minimize the amount of "tampering" with the file. Misguided changes to initialization files will cause untold grief. Even informed and educated changes to some of these files will cause problems. The less you mess - the better your chances!

NOW - Gettin' on Internet amounts to pointing at your browser icon and giving it a double click. It's like that old song, the shin bone connected to the ankle bone, the ankle bone connected to the foot bone . . . whatever. The double click activates the browser, which activates the dialer, that activates the modem and before you know it, you're connected; usually to the home page of your Internet provider.

One finds all manner of visual buttons to press and words underlined in blue that take you somewhere else. That underlined text is called hypertext and what used to aggravate your hypertension, now gets you from here to there with the ease of a mouse click. Guaranteed to lower your blood pressure.

Once on the Internet, explore away. Y'ain't gonna do it in a day, or even a year. The world is at your fingertips. It's a big world after all, bigger than the average bear. After you get the hang of it and sufficiently recover from the novelty of it all, you can become more objective and use your time wisely.

If you're a news junkie, you can read newspapers all over the globe; TASS, PRAVDA and the London Telegraph among them. Get the latest breaking news from Associated Press, Reuters and others.

Like shareware? There's tons of it. There are beta versions of many of the latest applications available for downloading - free. Matter of fact, you can even order pizza via the internet. At least in some locations.

So for all of you that recoiled at the thought of getting on the Web, get going. It's easy, not that expensive and you sure get a bang for your buck.

Charges Dropped Against Phil Zimmermann

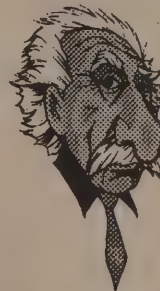
The federal government has dropped all charges against Phil Zimmermann, the author of the popular encryption program Pretty Good Privacy. In a letter addressed to Zimmermann's attorney Philip L. Dubois, federal prosecutors Michael Yamaguchi and William P. Keane wrote that "The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California has decided that your client, Philip Zimmermann, will not be prosecuted in connection with the posting to USENET in June 1991 of the encryption program Pretty Good Privacy. The investigation is closed."

Mr. Zimmermann told the EPIC Alert that he was "greatly relieved." The software programmer, who has become a folk hero to hundreds of thousands Internet users as he has also lived daily with the threat of federal indictment said, "I am thrilled and elated by the decision."

Copies of PGP and PGPfone may be downloaded from the EPIC web site at:

<http://www.epic.org/privacy/tools.html>

-Electronic Privacy Information Center



So you think you're smart!

Go to the British Mensa page and solve their weekly puzzle. If you are indeed smart, follow the directions and find out how to join the worldwide organization.

If you're not so smart, or maybe just couldn't afford the time it took to solve the puzzle, be content to brag about your code speed.

Well, if you can't brag about your code speed, maybe you can dazzle your friends with your ability to reprogram your HT without the instruction manual.

British Mensa is another one of those curiously interesting web pages. One can find out what trips the trigger of the "mentally UNchallenged". It provides a great deal of insight into an organization about which many have heard but know little about.

Take the test:

<http://www.mensa.org.uk/mensa/>

The Demise of Morse Code

Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

Overview

Since the invention of radio at the end of the 19th Century, ships at sea have relied on Morse code, invented by Samuel Morse and first used in 1844, for distress and safety telecommunications. The need for ship and coast radio stations to have and use radiotelegraph equipment, and to listen to a common radio frequency for Morse encoded distress calls, was recognized after the sinking of the liner Titanic in the North Atlantic in 1912. The U.S. Congress enacted legislation soon after, requiring U.S. ships to use Morse code radiotelegraph equipment for distress calls. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) now a United Nations agency, followed suit for ships of all nations. Morse encoded distress calling has saved thousands of lives since its inception almost a century ago, but its use requires skilled radio operators spending many hours listening to the radio distress frequency. Its range on the medium frequency (MF) distress band (500 kHz) is limited, and the amount of traffic Morse signals can carry is also limited.

Over fifteen years ago the International Maritime Organization (IMO) a United Nations agency specializing in safety of shipping and preventing ships from polluting the seas, began looking



at ways of improving maritime distress and safety communications. In 1979, a group of experts drafted the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, which called for development of a global search and rescue plan. This group also passed a resolution calling for development by IMO of a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to provide the communication support needed to implement the search and rescue plan. This new system, which the world's maritime nations, including the

United States, are implementing, is based upon a combination of satellite and terrestrial radio services, and has changed international distress communications from being primarily ship-to-ship based to ship-to-shore (Rescue Coordination Center) based. It spelled the end of Morse code communications for all but a few users, such as Amateur Radio. The GMDSS provides for automatic distress alerting and locating in cases where a radio operator doesn't have time to send an SOS or MAYDAY call, and, for the first time, requires ships to receive broadcasts of maritime safety information which could prevent a distress from happening in the first place.

The GMDSS consists of several systems, some of which are new, but many of which have been in operation for many years. The system will be able to reliably perform the following functions: alerting (including position determination of the unit in distress), search and rescue coordination, locating (homing), maritime safety information broadcasts, general communications, and bridge-to-bridge communications. Specific radio carriage requirements depend upon the ship's area of operation, rather than its tonnage. The system also provides redundant means of distress alerting, and emergency sources of power.

The GMDSS consists of many separate systems which are being implemented in a coordinated and agreed-upon manner. Some of these systems are discussed below:

The COSPAS-SARSAT system.

COSPAS-SARSAT is an international satellite-based search and rescue system, established by Canada, France, the U.S.A., and Russia. These four countries jointly helped develop a 406 MHz satellite emergency position-indicating radiobeacon (EPIRB), an element of the GMDSS designed to operate with COSPAS-SARSAT system. These automatic-activating EPIRBs, now required on SOLAS ships, commercial fishing vessels, and other ships, are designed to transmit to a rescue coordination center a vessel identification and an accurate location of the vessel from anywhere in the world.

NAVTEX

NAVTEX is an international, automated system for instantly distributing maritime navigational warnings, weather forecasts and warnings, search and rescue notices and similar information to ships. A small, low-cost and self-contained "smart" printing radio receiver installed in the pilot house of a ship or boat checks each incoming message to see if it has been received during an earlier transmission, or if it is of a category of no interest to the ship's master. If it is a new and wanted message, it is printed on a roll of adding-machine size paper; if not, the message is ignored. A new ship coming into the area will receive many previously-broadcast messages for the first time; ships already in the area which had

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Terminal programs for both DOS and Windows included.

Cables. RJ-45 serial cable with adapter to DE-9S. RJ-45 radio cable has real wire - solders easily to radio connectors.

Upgradeable. EPROM and RAM are socketed for ease in upgrading firmware and increasing memory.

Instruction manual, schematic, Quick Command listing, and power cord included.

Optional RAM. 128k, or 512k.

Battery Pack model. The case of the battery pack model fits a quick-change 6VDC slide-on/slide-off battery pack which allows continuous operation. The PicoPacket contains a built-in battery charging circuit.

Full-time GPS port (2nd serial port) allows both a GPS and computer to be attached to the Pico-

Packet. The GPS port also provides a real-time clock and 128k RAM.

Built-in GPS receiver. The GPS model has a built-in Trimble SVE6-CM3 GPS receiver. Total size only 2 x 2.5 x 3.25 inches. Active external GPS antenna provided.

Companion GPS receiver. A Trimble SVE6-CM3 receiver fits in a separate case the same size as the Pico and attaches via an audio stereo cable. GPS antenna provided.

Models and Prices:

PicoPacket w/32k RAM - \$129

PicoPacket w/128k RAM - \$149

PicoPacket with 2nd serial port, 128k RAM, Real Time Clock - \$189

PicoPacket Battery pack model with 32k RAM - \$189

PicoPacket Battery pack model with 128k RAM - \$209

PicoPacket Battery pack model with second serial port, 128k, RTC - \$249

PicoPacket/GPS. Same as model directly above plus internal GPS receiver and GPS antenna - \$629

Companion GPS receiver w/active antenna, data cable - \$399

Extra battery pack - \$45

PacComm Packet Radio Systems, Inc.

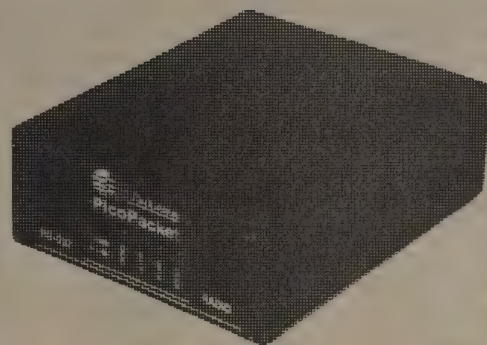
4413 N. Hesperides St., Tampa, FL 33614-7618

813-874-2980

Facsimile: 813-872-8696

BBS: 813-874-3078

Internet: Skip@paccomm.com



already received the message won't receive it again. No person needs to be present during a broadcast to receive vital information.

INMARSAT.

Satellite systems operated by the International Mobile Satellite Organization, is another important element of the GMDSS. Not only will the INMARSAT-A telex and telephone terminal be recognized by the GMDSS, but two new systems have been included as well. The first is INMARSAT's SafetyNET service, a satellite-based worldwide maritime safety information broadcast service of high seas weather warnings, NAVAREA navigational warnings, radionavigation warnings, ice reports and warnings generated by the USCG-conducted International Ice Patrol, and other similar information not provided by NAVTEX. SafetyNET works similarly to NAVTEX in areas outside NAVTEX coverage.

The second system is INMARSAT-C, a low cost telex and data telecommunication service now operational through U.S. and other coast earth stations. INMARSAT-C equipment costs are much less than for INMARSAT-A, and shipboard equipment and antenna size is much smaller. Inmarsat also offers an EPIRB system similar to that offered by COSPAS-SARSAT.

High Frequency

As a result of the GMDSS, the Coast Guard has begun to improve high frequency (HF) ship-shore radio safety services from our Communication Stations to the maritime community, as well as broadcasts of high seas maritime safety information over HF telex.

Search and Rescue Radar Transponders (SARTs)

The GMDSS installation on ships include one or more search and rescue radar transponders, devices which are used to locate survival craft or distressed vessels by creating a series of dots on a rescuing ship's 3 cm radar display.

Digital Selective Calling

The IMO also introduced digital selective calling (DSC) on VHF, MF and HF radio channels as part of the GMDSS system to speed distress and general radiotelephone calls to and from shore and other ships. When fully implemented, DSC will

Continued on page 20

HAMCALC - Handy Amateur Radio SOFTWARE

HAMCALC was written by George Murphy (VE3ERP), 77 McKenzie St., Orillia, ON L3V 6A6, Canada, a Canadian amateur radio operator (ham). It was described in the January, 1995 issue of QST (p.47) as "a veritable Swiss Army Knife for hams. HAMCALC does painless calculations for Amateur Radio Operators. ... This collection of programs removes the drudgery of mathematics for anyone who dabbles in design, experimentation or general fiddling in the field of ham radio. ... This software is free to use and to copy and pass along to your friends.

Many of the calculations that must be done in RF work, such as determining the value of capacitor that will resonate at a certain frequency with an inductor, must be done often and it's just plain easier to have a tool that does it automatically. HAMCALC is a computational tool that does many common calculations quickly. Its menus are clear and easy to use, and the tedium of repeating the same kinds of calculations is thereby eliminated. It can be mastered with very little effort, and contains very useful context-sensitive help screens throughout.

The software is available for downloading on the Internet at:
<http://uhavax.hartford.edu/diskuserdata/faculty/eetsw/www/hamcalc.html>

***** VERY IMPORTANT *****

If you download the HAMCALC software from this Web Page you will receive it in "zipped" form, as HAMCAL94.ZIP. Once you move HAMCAL94.ZIP to your PC, it must be installed by



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being "unzipped" using PKUNZIP.EXE.

Install HAMCALC on your PC by typing the following:
pkunzip -d hamcal94

The -D creates all the appropriate subdirectories that allow HAMCALC to work properly. There are dozens of menu items, many related to RF circuits and systems: resistive attenuators, impedance matching, L & C, resonance, VSWR, power level conversions, etc. It also includes very handy non-RF features, like unit conversions.

KSC on the WEB

All you ever wanted to know about the Kennedy Space Center can be found on the Web. One can take a trip to KSC without the aggravation of traffic. Just sit in your easy chair and watch the monitor.

When you get the home page, you'll realize there is more on the KSC site than you probably wanted to know. Accessing the many spectacular photographs is worth the trip. One can keep abreast of any current space activities or check out many of the past missions. One of the better places to visit at KSC is the NASA KSC Public Affairs Branch where one can find out the Space Shuttle Launch Schedule; Status reports on shuttle orbiters, payloads; News Releases; and facts, statistics galore.

In the Public Affairs branch is valuable information for ordering car passes for viewing shuttle launches, information for educators and information on public tours of KSC, Spaceport USA and other space-related attractions in the area.

Also on the home page are other KSC Servers, Contractor Home Pages, other NASA Services, and links to other Space Related Organizations and Services.

View this interesting page at:

<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc.html>

Continued from page 19

eliminate the need for persons on a ship's bridge or on shore to continuously guard noisy radio receivers on VHF channel 16 and 2182 kHz, and could help reduce the growing congestion problem now experienced in the U.S. on VHF channel 16. Ship watchkeeping on both those frequencies will end on February 1, 1999.

Once SOLAS ships are allowed to disband watchkeeping on VHF and MF radiotelephone channels, other ships are going to need DSC to contact these ships, particularly in a passing situation. We believe all VHF, MF and HF radiotelephone equipment carried on ships should include a DSC capability as a matter of safety. To achieve this, we are considering a national requirement that all newly manufactured maritime radiotelephones, VHF and MF/HF, have at least a basic DSC capability by this 1999 date.

VHF digital selective calling also has other capabilities beyond those required for the GMDSS. The Coast Guard uses this system to track vessels in Prince William Sound, Alaska, Vessel Traffic Service, and is considering doing so in the Great Lakes and major US ports. IMO is also planning to use this system for ship-to-ship identification and tracking.

U.S. shore-based radio stations exist to support every element of the GMDSS, except for digital selective calling. MF/HF digital selective calling facilities should be in place in about the next two years, and VHF digital selective calling facilities should be in place shortly thereafter.

Last Revised: 21 December 1995

Mail comments or questions concerning GMDSS to
Commandant (G-TTM)

U.S. Coast Guard
Washington DC 20593

50th Anniversary

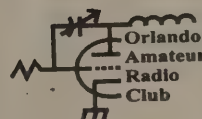
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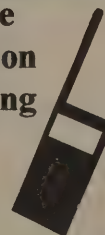
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HIDDEN DATA ON DISKS?

When you copy an application to a disk for someone, are you also giving them a copy of a love letter to your girlfriend?

"Aw c'mon, more conspiracy stuff." you say. STOP! REALITY CHECK!

If you've been keeping up with the Whitewater Hearings, you are aware that one of the lawyers used modern computer technology to reconstruct a personal letter, written by Jean Lewis, that supposedly proved that she had a conflict of interest while investigating the RTC.

To listen to the lawyer, one had have a PhD in Computer Science and be on a first name basis with Bill Gates to reconstruct what was thought to be erased data.

NOT! I have on my grubby little computer a simple little program called SAFE that checks your diskettes for hidden data. I had the program long before the sophisticated technology was revealed during the hearings.

The program was written by Glen L. Roberts who also hosts the radio program, Full Disclosure Live - every Sunday night. Many computer users will simply take a look

at an idle disk and erase all the files. Formatting the diskette doesn't necessarily remove all the data either. By all indications, it appears that all the information is erased from the disk but that is not necessarily so.

The problem is in the tidbits of data that are not removed from storage. A diskette can hold files full of data so it serves as a file drawer or lots of them. The directory one creates as a place to store data becomes the label of one or more drawers.

When one erases a directory, all that is done is to remove the label from the drawer. Unless one actually loads data into the drawer or overwrites existing data, the old data (possibly that old love letter) remains on the disk.

One must do a destructive format (format a: /U) to fully delete all information on the disk.

Most of the methods employed by the average computer user show disks to be erased and empty. SAFE permits you to view alpha-numeric characters and ASCII test files. Other data files will not make sense but are easily decoded by more sophisticated programs.

The real solution is simply to make sure that ALL data is removed from your

diskettes before passing them along.

The program takes a whopping 6kb of space and is simple to use. One simply types "safe" and then types the location of the disk drive containing the diskette to check. Try it. You may be pleasantly surprised (or horrified) what is sitting there on your "erased" disks for others to read.

The program is shareware and one may get a copy by writing:

Glen Roberts
PO Box 1533-P
Oil City, PA 16301

In the spirit of the New Year, I will send you a FREE copy if you send me a blank diskette and a self addressed stamped envelope. That's Florida Skip, 672 Indian River Dr., Melbourne, FL 32935.

If you are interested in surveillance, privacy and technology, I suggest you listen to Glen Robert's Full Disclosure Live. But, near as I can figure, one can only get it on Telstar 302, Transponder 21, 5.8 - Sunday's 8 to 9 pm (eastern).

If you would like to take a look at Full Disclosure (even a picture of Glen Roberts) on the Web:

<http://pages.ripco.com:8080/~glr/ glr.html>

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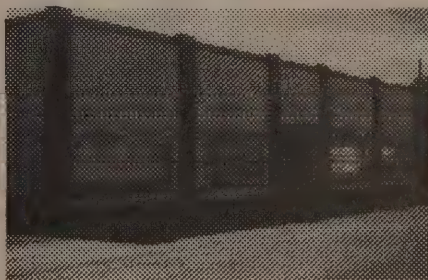


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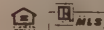
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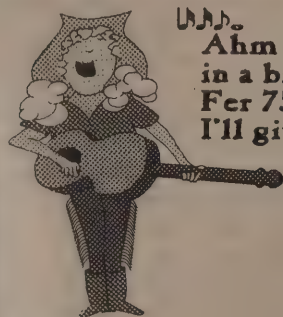
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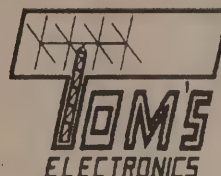
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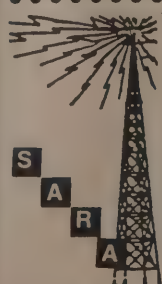
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Air Force MARS Report

Carl Houston, Jr., AFA20X



The past year was a very productive one for Region 2, although sometimes beset with severe problems such as hurricanes and natural phenomena. Throughout those ordeals, however, the continuity of service was kept available and the affected members were back in operation in a minimum amount of time.

The coming year will mark the beginning of a new effort on the inter-operation of the three MARS services and with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Disaster training is being planned and will be conducted several times during 1996. As we all have seen, and in the case of some Region 2 members who have been victims, the need for emergency training is one of the basics for our service. When will we need Emergency communications again? We only know that when we do, we will be ready.

There are many changes to be implemented during the next few months that will necessitate some new training. Most are changes in procedure and in traffic handling. The message formats will have a minor change in the heading, and this will become a standard for all three services. The text group counts will not continue to be used, however, they can be used if conditions warrant. A text group count of 50 is now authorized per message. Full mailing addresses will be used, along with the use of military rank in address lines. These items are just a few of the changes that are intended to streamline the message flow, making for much easier and quicker delivery of messages.

Although voice and digital message handling is still the primary method, the use of Internet E-mail is becoming a part of the MARS systems. It is not intended for it to replace radio circuits, but is a very useful compliment to the system. It has been designated and is now being used for staff coordination and can be used as a supplement for traffic handling. The use of E-mail recently has proven to be a valuable time-saving tool for all who are on the system. It will not be a requirement for MARS membership, although Vic Carson, AFF2C, requests that if you have the capability for E-mail and would like to use it in the system, please send him your circuit address. The list of users is growing with leaps and bounds, with several new listings every few days. It

is unknown at this time if we will get military addresses for the Internet, but perhaps later it will be considered. In the future, hard-to-get information may be just a keystroke or two away!

By now, you may have heard of a home page on the internet to send a message of encouragement to the peace-keepers in Bosnia (BOSNIA-LINK), and some of you may have visited the site and done so. The messages sent there are non-personal and are intended for all soldiers. A recent effort, brought to our attention by William Conway, AFA2PA, who noticed that MARS was conspicuously not represented there, resulted in a call-to-arms action for the service. The action taken was the creation of a Web page and E-mail address to take personal traffic and reprocess it for delivery through the MARS networks. Thanks to AFA2PA and Erols Computers And TV of Springfield, VA for this service; it promises to be a very good way to get traffic into the system. The Web address is <http://www.erols.com/mars> and the e-mail address is mars@erols.com. Spread the word in your area and look out for traffic!

If you are one of the members who possibly has needed a piece of equipment to compliment your personal station and give you more operating capability, then you should contact the surplus property manager in your state. There are many, many items of surplus at defense depots (DRMOs) and at other locations throughout the region that can be obtained for members' use at no cost to them, although the minimum participation requirements must be kept. The property will still belong to MARS, but the member may keep and use it as long as needed. For example, the property screeners in West Tennessee, Al Rogers, AFA2JE, and Sam Johnson, AFA2NI, have not only been procuring surplus items at the local DRMO, but also have located and contacted other sources with usable equipment. Some of the items already in use by Tennessee members and others in the region who have screeners busy visiting their depots are: Computers! The requirements to obtain computers and their accouterments have been relaxed, and are gotten more easily. Fax machines! Many serviceable fax/phones are entering the surplus system. Occasionally, radio equipment is available. Not only are some of the big items readily available, but items such as cable, coax, wire, tape, and many other ba-

sic needs can possibly be filled. Although your screener cannot guarantee that what you request can be gotten, he will surely make every attempt to comply.

Speaking of participation...The report summary for the third quarter of Region 2 showed that the affiliates have maintained a very high standard of personal pride in their effort to be available for the traffic nets and others as much as possible. The total Region membership stands at 570, and during the third quarter, 1995, the total participation time was 44,688 hours; that equates to an average time per member of 78.4 hours! The total Region 2 packet time was outstanding also, with all states showing a very good amount of time spent. Florida leads the way in both voice and digital participation time, but Virginia and others are trying to close the gap. These figures represent a great devotion to duty, and AFF2C and his staff are pleased with the members for their enthusiasm. The 1995 total time for each state will be averaged, and the SMD of the state with the most will be given an award to share with his membership.

Packet operation in the future will be enhanced with new operating software and protocol to standardize operation with the other services. A tri-service task force of experts is to be implemented and will produce a very user-friendly system that will meet the requirements of a tasking letter currently under development by the joint chiefs. This is important due to the fact that a large number of new packet operators is expected to be seen very soon. The primary means of distribution will remain with packet, due to the time-sensitive nature of the traffic. This will ensure timely delivery, although the final stage of delivery is by voice. All stages of the delivery must be done with an emphasis on promptness of final delivery.

When a message is delivered to a family of the service personnel, the MARS operator should ask for a reply at that time. Most of the time, the recipient will be very glad to send a return message to their soldier. The only thing required is the complete APO address, and the operator should assist the recipient in the text of the message in order to get maximum effectiveness from the fifty groups allowed.

Thomas (Tom) Taylor, AFF2T, in Morganton, NC, reports that due to propagation on the training nets, it has been extremely difficult to effectively conduct his sessions, but due to the determination on the part of his trainees, he has completed most of his goals. All training net sched-

House Delays Vote on Counter-terrorism Bill, Eases FBI Access to Credit Reports

ules are sent on 2S1, and SMDs are advised of the times in order to alert stations in training in time for them to prepare for the sessions. Incidentally, Tom recently was involved with a different training mission: he took some time to personally train a BST team at Charleston AFB. There were nine affiliates and leader Nicole Valdez of the 437th COMM SQDN trained in AF MARS procedures and also in emergency hurricane procedures. Good job, Tom.

The Region 2 library is still active and has many reference items and documents on hand for your use. Members needing manuals may contact Steve Allen, AFF2L, Evert Hickman, AFA2SE, Glenn Kilpatrick, AFA2WX, or Vic Carson, AFF2C and request needed items.

The next Region 2 Conference will be hosted by the affiliates in Hendersonville, North Carolina on 2,3, and 4 August, 1996 at the Quality Inn. All wishing to attend should begin to prepare now. A mailing from the Conference coordinators will be sent detailing the events.

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: *This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.*

The House leadership decided in late December not to schedule a vote on HR 2703, the controversial 'Comprehensive Counterterrorism Act of 1995' after they realized that there were not enough votes to pass the bill. The revised bill is opposed by conservative Republicans who object to provisions increasing federal law enforcement powers and liberal Democrats who also oppose limitations on the Habeas Corpus rule.

The current bill expands the definition of terrorism, allows the use of evidence created by illegal wiretaps in court proceedings, expands the FBI ability to obtain travel, financial, and telephone records without needing to show that the individual is suspected of violating any law, allow the use of secret evidence in deportation hearings, and limit federal courts from reviewing unconstitutional state court proceedings that resulting in imprisonment or executions.

It is expected that the leadership will attempt to bring to bill to the floor for a vote in late January or early February.

On December 22, the House approved HR 1655, the 'Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996'. The bill provides for an estimated \$30 billion budget for the intel-

ligence agencies. It also amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to allow easier access to credit reports in "national security" investigations. The bill allows the FBI to obtain information on the locations of all of an individuals' financial institutions without a court order upon the written request of the FBI. The FBI may get a copy of the full consumer report without having to prove 'probable cause' that the individual is violating a federal law.

More information is available at
<http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/>
- Electronic Privacy Information Center

Ed. Note. *This is important in that the term "terrorism" is the government's collective term to to justify its initiatives in Clipper Chip technology, access to private computer records, wiretapping that would include internet activities, and in prohibiting encryption of private data.*



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Featured this month

The Warship Directory. With radio calls and frequencies. Volume 1 - US, Canada, Great Britain. By James T. Pogue.

Lists all US Military vessels, Canadian Maritime Command, British Royal Navy ships by both vessel name and callsign. Also lists research and training vessels, Canadian Coast Guard and NOAA vessels. Includes a radio frequency list, addresses and glossary. \$14.95 plus \$2 s/h.

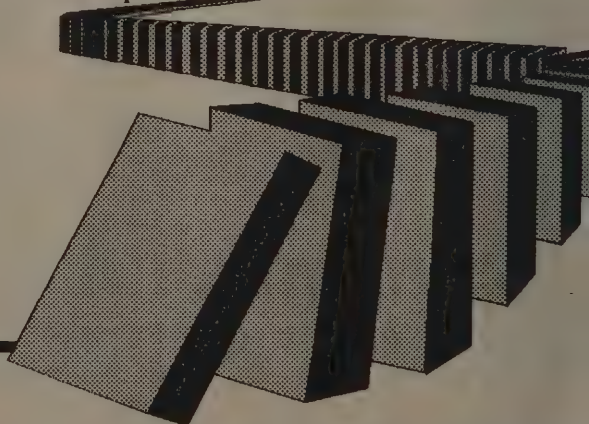
Weather Radio. A complete guide to receiving NOAA, Volmet, Weatherfax, Weather Satellite and other Weather Information Sources. By Anthony R. "Tony" Curtis, K3RXX.

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The World Ham Net Directory. By Mike Witkowski.

The new 4th edition of this popular reference includes listings for over 1,100 worldwide amateur radio nets, which meet on the air regularly to chat about their special interests. There are groups discussing UFOs, stamp collecting, satellites, DXing and dozens of other subjects. There are senior citizens, airline personnel, missionaries and many more who meet regularly to discuss their mutual interests. Over 200 more nets listed than in the last edition. Nets are listed by name, by meeting day, time and frequency. Here's your ticket to some fascinating ham band activities. \$12.95 plus \$2 s/h.



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I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. -George Burns

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Florida Hamfest Update - January, 1995

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
Feb 3/4	Miami	Dade County Expo Center SW 112th Ave & Coral Way Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925 INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4139	Apr 6	Sunrise (Rain Date Apr 13)	FREE! At Motorola East Parking Lot University & Sunrise Blvd Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Robin, N4HHP (954) 583-3033
Feb 10	Arcadia (New Location!)	Desoto County Fairgrounds US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70 Talk-in on 147.075 INFO: Doug, KN4YT (813) 494-5070	Apr 27/28	Gainesville	Alachua County Fairgrounds SR 24 & SR 222 Talk-in on 146.820 INFO: Bill, K4RDP (904) 454-3105
Feb 10	Pensacola	Bayfront Municipice Auditorium Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925 INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537	Aug 3/4	Jacksonville	Prime Osborne Convention Ctr South Lee & West Bay St Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Billy, N4UF (904) 350-9193
Feb 17/18	Orlando	Central Florida Fairgrounds 4300 W. Colonial Way Talk-in on 146.760 INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465	Sept 7/8	Melbourne	Melbourne Auditorium 625 Hibiscus Blvd. Talk-in on 146.850 INFO: Allen, N4PTM (407) 773-9658
Feb 24	Brooksville	Hernando County Fairgrounds Talk-in on 146.715 INFO: Glenn, AC4QH (904) 799-6755	Sept 14	Sunrise (Rain Date Sept 21)	FREE! At Motorola East Parking Lot University & Sunrise Blvd Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Robin, N4HHP (954) 583-3625
Mar 2	Zephyrhills	At 3339 Allen Rd. Talk-in on 145.190 INFO: Phinney, WB4UMT (813) 788-1344	Sept 22	New Port Richey (Sunday only)	Recreational Center on Van Buren Ave. Talk-in on 145.35 & 147.15 INFO: Ron, N9EE (813) 376-6575
Mar 9	Lake Worth	FREE! At John Prince Park 6th Ave South and Congress Ave Talk-in on 146.670 Info: Marvin, KD2CK (407) 683-2930	Oct 19	Starke	Bradford County Fairgrounds U.S. 301 north of SR 100 Talk-in on 145.150 INFO: Dan, K4RVD (904) 475-2695
Mar 16	Englewood	At Tringali Community Ctr 6400 Pennell St. (Off SR 776) Talk-in on 146.700 (-) INFO: Frank, WB9EOR (941) 697-8584	Oct 19/20	West Palm Beach	Expo Center @ South FL Fair grounds SR 80 just east of U.S. 441 Talk-in on 147.165 INFO: Hal, N4UIT (407) 439-0805
Mar 16/17	Ft. Walton Beach	Okaloosa County Fairground 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd. Talk-in on 146.790 INFO: Bud (10-7 CST) (904) 243-2404	Nov 23/24	Tampa	Florida Expo Park I-4 & US 301 Talk-in on 146.940 INFO: Jean Endicot (813) 525-5178
Mar 23 (New date and new location!)	Stuart	FREE! At Martin County Fairgrounds A1A south of Stuart Talk-in on 147.060 INFO: Andy, W8BIX (407) 225-5122	***** HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN EARLY! PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND WHO TO CALL FOR INFO! Packet Address: KB4VOL @ KB4VOL Army MARS Call: AAT4RV Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St. Hobe Sound, FL 33455 E-Mail: bill.britton@jbs.com *****		
Mar 23 (New date!)	Sebring	National Guard Armory on U.S. 27, 6 mi N of Sebring Talk-in: 147.270/145.330 INFO: George, KD4WDX (941) 382-4861			
Mar 30 (New location!)	Fanning Springs	Livestock Pavillion (Fairgrounds) SR 26 & US 19 Talk-in on ?? INFO: Glenda, K4KRU (904) 542-3033			

Compuforum - Continued from page 13

up the 95 version of the 'CONFIG.SYS' and 'AUTOEXEC.BAT' files that we are all familiar with. To run it, type 'SYSEDIT' in the 'RUN PROGRAM' box. It turns out that when I installed the sound card, the original version of the 'CONFIG.SYS' which came from the DOS 6.2 file was edited by the installer and the new version was incorrect. The CD ROM was deleted, the files were reordered, incorrectly, and the sound card was set up wrong. 'SYSEDIT' let me fix the problems. I rebooted, thinking I fixed everything. Guess again. This time, Windows 95 apparently didn't like my version of the init files so it deleted and replaced them with the old files. No matter what order I did this, I couldn't get the changes to stay. This was crazy.

Well, I had no choice. I would just start over. I reformatted the hard disk, loaded DOS 6.2 again and ran the installer from scratch.

Success!!!

This time everything worked and the sound card came up with Sound Blaster Pro drivers. I opted to skip the Mozart install because I didn't need the MIDI ports (the only part of the card that didn't work). It was time to leave well enough alone.

The moral of this story is: Let the Installer do the install from scratch. The 'Add New Hardware' wizard doesn't always work.

Windows 95 looks slick and adds new features which were extras in 3.1. The 32 bit drivers don't occupy the lower 640 K of RAM and DOS 7 seems to work pretty good.

But, deep down inside, I mostly see the same stuff with a fancy wrapper, more integrated software and installers are weak especially with older hardware. The system takes forever to boot and the older sixteen bit Windows Apps run about the same.

My most egregious complaint is the woeful lack of documentation concerning installation. If the installer doesn't work, good luck.

Next month, I'll talk about how well 95 works and how DOS mode programs really run. I'm also planning on loading some 32 bit software specifically written for Windows 95. We'll see if that runs better as well. Until then, hang on and ride with me before you trash your own hard drive.

Steve

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Upcoming Eastern United States Hamfests & Computer Shows

DAYS	HAMFEST	LOCATION	CONTACT	ADDR	CITY	PHONE
February						
18	Briarpatch & Foothills ARCS	Elkin, NC	Dave Nicholson	PO Box 162	Cania, VA 24317-0317	703-755-4669
24	Hamfest	Dalton GA				
13	Appalachian AR Group Hamfest	Fredericksburg, PA	Lanny Hoffman	337 N. 19th St.	Lebanon, PA 17042	717-274-2148
24/25	Hamfest	Cincinnati, OH				
25	Hamfest	Fayetteville, WV	John Witt	135 Daniels St.	Fayetteville, WV 25840	304-574-0532
25	Vienna Wireless Society Winterfest	Vienna, VA				
March						
2	Black Warrior Swapfest	Tuscaloosa, AL	Kelly Bruce	PO Box 03171	Tuscaloosa, AL 35403	205-339-7882
2	Mammoth Cave ARC Ham/Swapfest		Cave City, KY			
8-10	Hamfest	Lafayette, LA				
9/10	Hamfest/Computer Show	Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Hamfest	PO Box 221136	Charlotte, NC 28222-1136	704-841-HAMS
16	Kennehoochee ARC Hamfest	Marietta, GA				
16/17	Hamfest	Fort Walton Beach	Bud			904-243-2404
22/23	Hamfest	Columbus GA				
30/31	24th Balto Hamboree.Computerfest	Timonium, MD	William Dobson	482 Shirley Manor Rd.	Reisterstown, MD 21136	410-426-3378
24	Charleston ARS Hamfest	Charleston, WV				
24	6th Annual "Downeast Hamfest"	Kinston, NC				
29/30	Hamfest	Albertville, AL				
April						
6	Aiken Contest Club 2nd AnnHamfest	Aiken, SC				
6	Perry Hamfest	Warner Robbins, GA				
5-7	Ham Radio '96 (N. Atl. Trade Ctr.)	Atlanta, GA				
6/7	Hamfest	N. Little Rock, AK				
7	Hamfest	Clarksville, TN				
7	Penn-Del ARC Hamfest	New Castle, DE				
13	Hamfest	Bowling Green, KY	Leon Garrett	2901 Smallhouse Rd.	Bowling Green, KY 42104	502-842-5307
13	Hamfest	Oak Ridge/Clinton, TN				
13	6m AR Team Hamfest-Fairgrounds	Goochland, VA				
13	Hamfest	Statesboro, GA				
13	TRAC Hamfest	Talledega, AL				
13/14	Old Natches ARC Hamfest	Natchez, MS				
14	Carrol Cty Computerfest & Hamboree	Westminster, MD				
14	RARS Hamfest/Computer Fair	Raleigh, NC	Rollin Ransom	1421 Parks Village Rd.	Zebulon, NC 27597	919-269-4406
19/20	TARC Flowertown Hamfest	Summerville, SC				
20	Hamfest	Eastview, TN				
27	4th Annual Hamfest	Gastonia, NC				
* See page 30 for current Florida Hamfests						

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